

Newton elected 14th Southern Ute chairman; GoodTracks, Torres to join council • from page 1

make a decision next week.

Newton made up his vote deficit from the general election and then some to win the Wednesday, Dec. 14 runoff election. After coming in second in the Friday, Nov. 4 general election with 32.5 percent of the vote to incumbent Casias' 37.4 pershowing in the runoff.

According to official numbers, he claimed 57.4 percent of votes

cast for chairman, surpassing Casias' 42.6-percent share.

Casias, who was present on election night as the votes were tallied, said she was grateful to the support she felt from tribal members during her time in office.

"I want to thank each and every one of them for their trust and cent, he made a much stronger support. I wish them well," said Casias, who made history in April by becoming the tribe's first female chairman. "It was a good race."

Though GoodTracks maintained a handy lead throughout the night, ending up with 32.6 percent of votes, the race for the second council seat was much tighter. Torres finally claimed victory with 24 percent, edging Cloud (22.3 percent) and Vida B. Peabody (21 percent).

"I was honored and deeply grateful for those who supported me," GoodTracks said after her

> inauguration. amount of support I received I had not anticipated."

She pledged to represent the tribal membership as a whole, not just those who are most vocal.

"I will particularly be paying attention to the wellbeing of tribal families, because families are the foundation of each and every one of us," she said.

Torres likewise said he didn't think before the election that he'd make it as far as he did. He said the council members have good chemistry and a history of working well together something to which he is eager to contribute.

"We all know how to work together," he said. "That's one of the big things that tribal members wanted: a unified council. And that's a start."

Cloud wished the new council members luck, saying it's a hard

"People voted. It's however the Creator wanted it," he said.



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

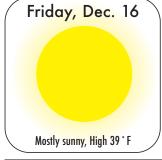
The Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council is back to full strength with the addition of Chairman Jimmy R. Newton Jr. and members Pathimi GoodTracks and Aaron V. Torres on Thursday, Dec. 15. Ute Mountain Ute Chairman Gary Hayes (above) welcomes the new members; Ian Thompson of drum group 12 Gauge (below) shares some thoughts with the council; Elaine Newton (left), mother of the new chairman, expresses pride in her son's accomplishments.

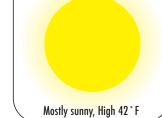


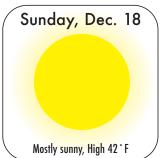


Local Ignacio Weather

Saturday, Dec. 17

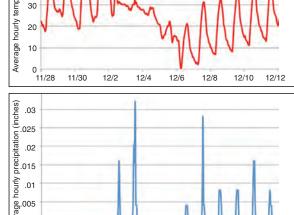


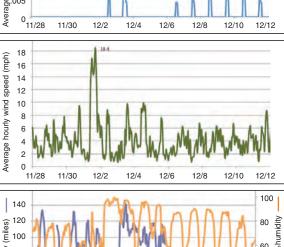






Weather data for November 28 - December 12





12/10 Data compiled by Southern Ute Environmental Program

Temperature

52.6°F High 0.3°F Low 24.8°F Average 29.7°F Average last year

Precipitation

0.28 inches Total Total last year 0.09 inches

Wind speed

Average 4.0 mph Minimum 0.7 mph Maximum 18.4 mph

Visibility & humidity

Avg. visibility 90.8 miles 68.9% Avg. humidity

> Air quality Good



